



MacBook Air Models A1237 and A1304 Heat Sink Replacement

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INTRODUCTION

Use this guide to swap out your old heat sink for a new one.



TOOLS:

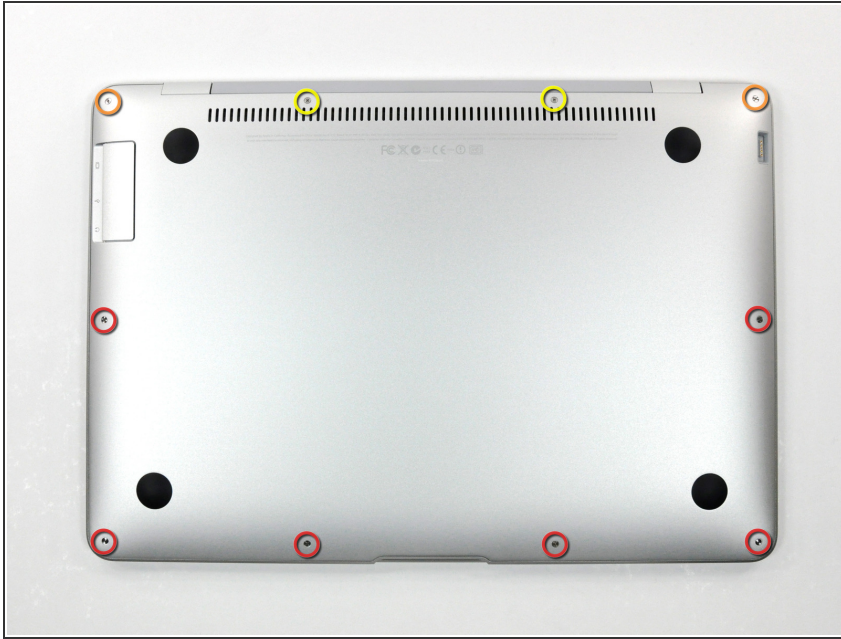
- [Arctic Silver ArctiClean](#) (1)
- [Arctic Silver Thermal Paste](#) (1)
- [Phillips #00 Screwdriver](#) (1)
- [Spudger](#) (1)



PARTS:

- [MacBook Air \(Original\) Heat Sink](#) (1)
- [MacBook Air \(Late 2008 Mid 2009\) Heat Sink](#) (1)

Step 1 — Lower Case



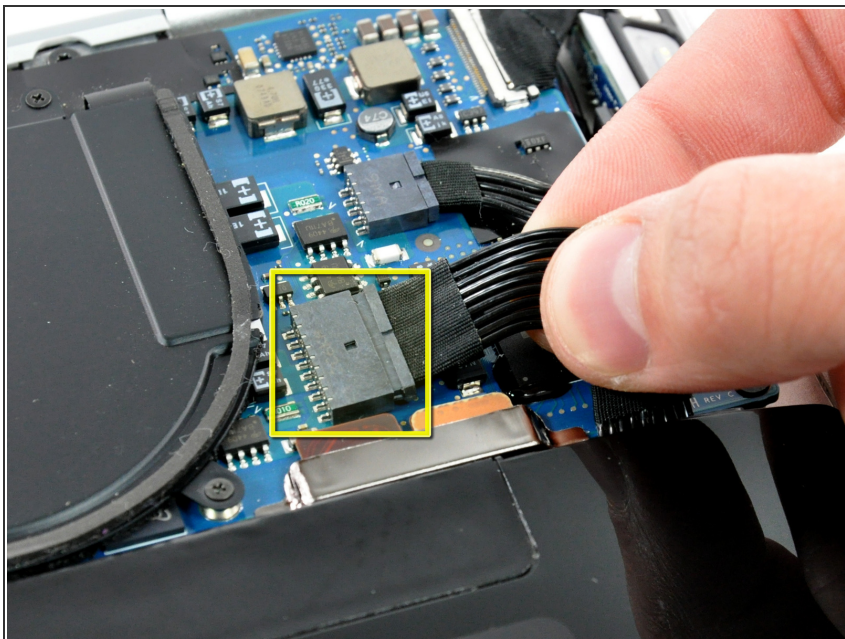
- Remove the following 10 screws securing the lower case to the Air:
 - Six 2.8 mm Phillips screws.
 - Two 3.8 mm Phillips screws.
 - Two 5.4 mm Phillips screws.

Step 2



- Slightly lift the lower case near the vents and push it toward the rear of the computer to free the mounting tabs.

Step 3 — Battery



- Disconnect the battery connector by pulling it straight out of its socket.

Step 4



- Remove the following nine screws securing the battery to the Air:
 - Four 2.9 mm Phillips.
 - Four 3.8 mm Phillips.
 - One 7.2 mm Phillips.

Step 5



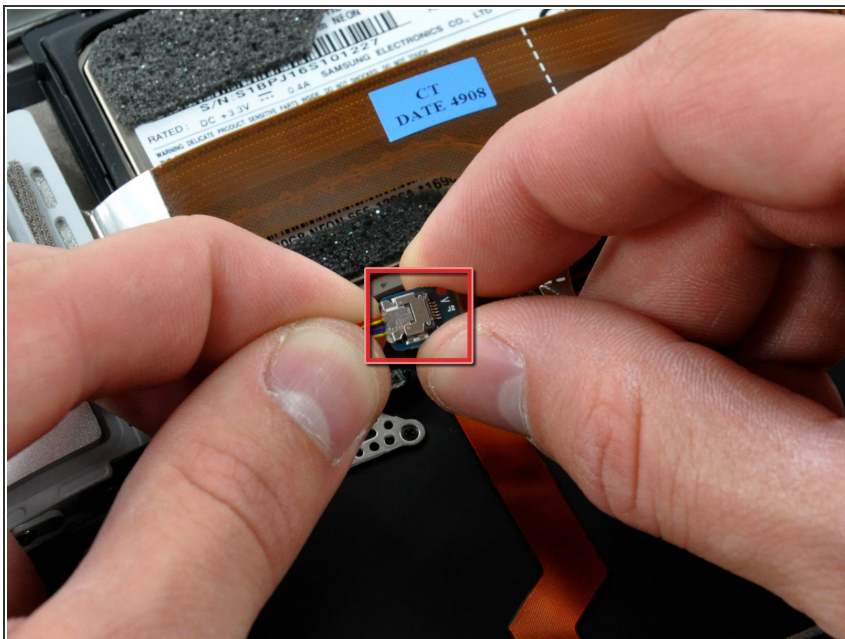
- Lift the battery out of the Air.

Step 6 — Hard Drive



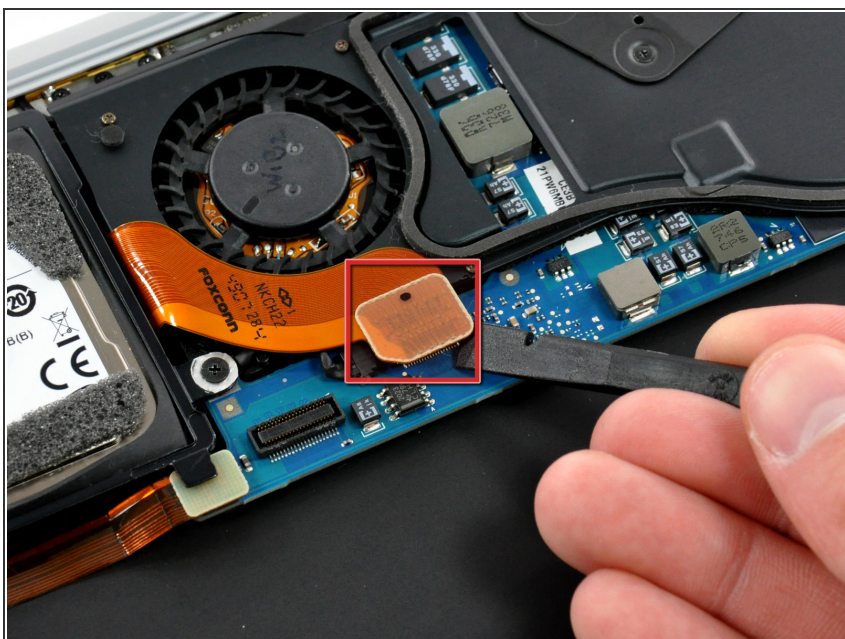
- Disconnect the port hatch ribbon cable from the logic board by pulling it straight up by its black pull tab.
- Pull the audio out ribbon cable off the adhesive securing it to the upper case.
- Use a spudger to pry the audio out ribbon cable connector board off the hard drive bracket.

Step 7



- Disconnect the audio out cable from its socket on the port hatch ribbon cable.

Step 8



- Use a spudger to pry the hard drive cable connector up off the logic board.

Step 9



- Use the sharp end of a spudger to de-route the microphone cable from the hard drive bracket.
- Remove the cosmetic screw cover from the adhesive securing it to the hard drive bracket.

Step 10



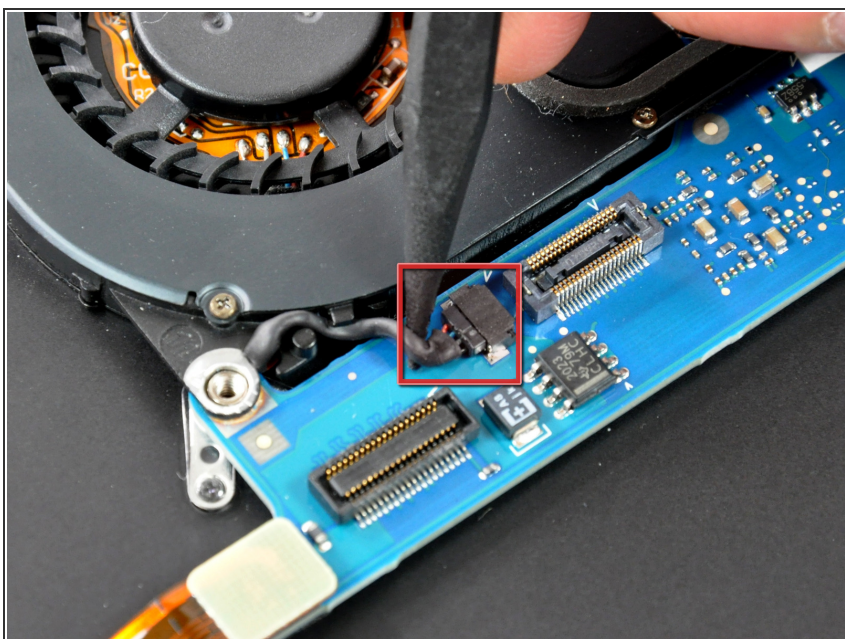
- Remove the four Phillips screws securing the hard drive assembly to the upper case:
 - Two 4.7 mm screws.
 - Two 3.9 mm screws.

Step 11



- Lift the hard drive assembly out of the upper case.

Step 12 — Heat Sink



- Use the tip of a spudger to pull the fan cable connector straight away from its connector on the logic board.

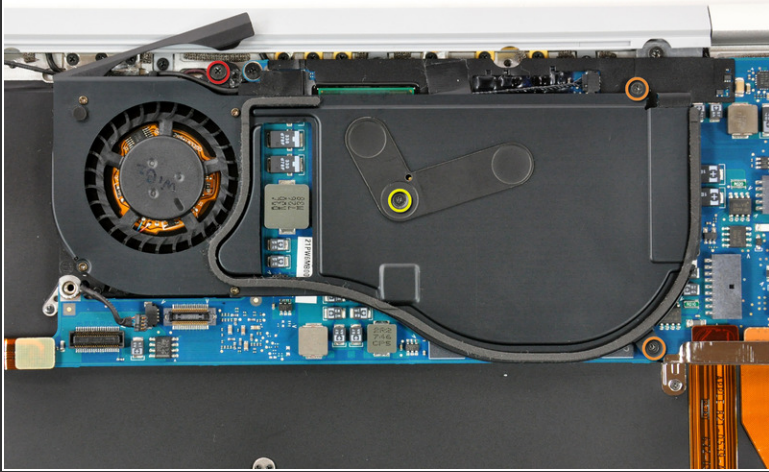
Step 13



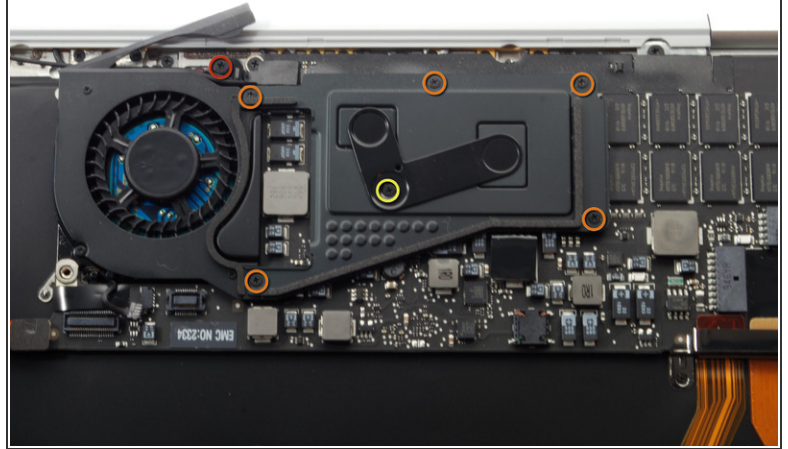
- Use the tip of a spudger to move the cosmetic fan cover aside.

Step 14

A1237

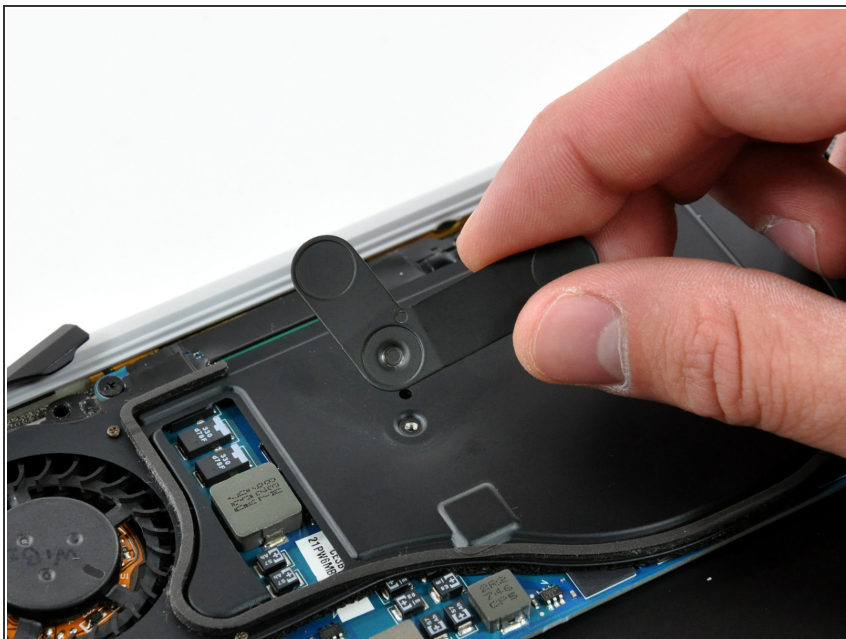


A1304



- ⓘ If you have the original version of the MacBook Air (A1237), refer to picture 1. Remove the following screws securing the heat sink to the logic board:
- One 5.9 mm Phillips screw.
 - Two 1.9 mm Phillips screws.
 - One 1.9 mm Phillips screw.
- ⓘ If you have the A1304 version of MacBook Air, refer to picture 2. Remove the following screws securing the heat sink to the logic board:
- One 5.0 mm Phillips screw
 - Five 1.9 mm Philips screws.
 - One 2.5 mm Phillips screw.

Step 15



- Lift the processor clamp off the heat sink.

Step 16



- Deroute the microphone cable away from the channel in the fan.

Step 17



- Lift the heat sink up off the logic board.
- ⓘ Be mindful of the microphone cable when lifting the heat sink, as it can get tangled on the top edge of the fan.
- ⚠ When you mount the heat sink back onto the logic board, be sure to apply a new layer of thermal paste. We have a [guide](#) that makes replacing the thermal paste easy.

Step 18 — Heat Sink



- ⓘ If you have the A1304 version of MacBook Air, the fan is a separate component. The following steps therefore do not apply to your model.
- Remove the four 2.5 mm Phillips screws holding the fan on the heat sink.

Step 19



- Lift the heat sink off the fan.
- Heatsink remains.

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.

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